

2018 CONSERVATION CONGRESS SPRING HEARING

RESTORING DEER TAGGING REQUIREMENTS IN THE STATE STATUTES

In 1901, the Wisconsin State Legislature enacted state statutes requiring that legally taken deer be tagged. Tagging requirements were long standing and well understood, continuing until passage of the legislature's Budget Bill last summer, when a single legislator placed language into the Budget Bill rescinding the requirement to tag deer. In its place was instituted a requirement of registration no later than 5 p.m. on the day following harvest. Of note, eliminating the requirement to tag deer was done without public hearing.

Accordingly, elimination of deer tagging leaves no effective enforcement mechanism available to Conservation Wardens to control bag limits and, thus, harvest numbers. Tags validated and remaining with the carcass are a necessary and well understood remedy to control legal harvest.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting in Langlade County on April 9, 2018, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the state legislature to re-enact legislation which was rescinded in the Budget Bill, to restore the requirement to tag deer.

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